

Report for Friday, January 26, 2007

The ninth day of the 2007 legislative session was called to order by Lieutenant Governor **Casey Cagle**.

Senator **Don Thomas** of the 54th stated that the journal had been read and was found to be correct.

Senate Bills 51, 52 and 54-62, and Senate Resolution 87 were read for the first time and assigned to committees. The clerk of the Secretary then read the reports of standing committees and second readers.

Following the morning roll call, Lt. Gov. **Cagle** recognized Sen. **Emanuel Jones** of the 10th, who took the rostrum to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance. Sen. **Jones** then introduced the *Chaplain of the Day*, Rev. **Kenyatl Bush** of Shiloh Baptist Church in McDonough, who led the Senate in the daily devotional.

There were no unanimous consents.

Sen. **Jones** then took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to share the story of **Genarlow Wilson**, whose situation prompted Sen. **Jones** to draft SB 37.

Sen. **J.B. Powell** of the 23rd took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to discuss the *Returning Hero Education Act*, which provides open enrollment within Georgia's university system for anyone who has served during wartime and graduated from a Georgia high school.

Sen. **Michael Meyer von Bremen** of the 12th took the well on a Point of Personal Privilege to present a resolution recognizing the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, which will be holding a national meeting in Georgia next week.

Sen. **Nan Orrock** of the 36th took the rostrum to introduce the *Doctor of the Day*, Dr. **Eric Benning** of Atlanta.

SR 85, 86 and 88-92 were then read and adopted.

The Secretary read SB 19, which relates to the authority of the Department of Transportation to pay costs of removal, relocation or adjustment of certain utility facilities necessitated by the construction of public roads. Sen. **Jim Whitehead** of the 24th took the well to speak to the bill and explain that the bill's language had been clarified. He then yielded to questions from Sen. **Regina Thomas** of the 2nd.

SB 19 passed by a vote of 51 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 24, which prohibits persons from using the Internet or e-mail to induce another to provide identifying information by falsely representing themselves to be a business, otherwise known as "phishing." Sen. **Cecil Staton** of the 18th took the well to present the bill.

The Committee Substitute to SB 24 was adopted by a vote of 40 to 0.

SB 24 passed by substitute by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary then read SR 49, which urges the U.S. Department of Justice to oppose the proposed unsolicited takeover of Delta Air Lines. Sen. **Chip Pearson** of the 51st took the well to speak to the resolution.

SR 49 was adopted by a vote of 52 to 0.

The Secretary read SB 15, which increases penalties for drivers who operate a vehicle without a valid driver's license or on a suspended license. Sen. **John Wiles** of the 37th took the well to present the bill. He then yielded to questions from Sen. **Dan Weber** of the 40th.

Sen. **Meyer von Bremen** took the well to state that there are unintended consequences to the bill. He then yielded to questions from Senators **Wiles**, **Ralph Hudgens** of the 47th, **Renee Unterman** of the 45th, **Don Balfour** of the 9th, **John Douglas** of the 17th and **Thomas** of the 2nd.

Sen. **Steve Thompson** of the 33rd took the well to present Amendment 1, which would make a minor language change to the bill.

The Secretary read Amendment 2, which adds language to the bill to exempt those who have newly established residency in Georgia within 60 days prior to the offense. Sen. **Wiles** took the well to explain the provisions of the amendment.

Sen. **Seth Harp** of the 29th took the well to speak to the bill.

Sen. **Wiles** took the well to deliver final comments and close the debate.

Sen. **Thompson** of the 33rd moved to withdraw Amendment 1. The amendment was withdrawn without objection.

Amendment 2 was adopted by a vote of 40 to 0.

SB 15 passed as amended by a vote of 40 to 8.

Following the announcements, Majority Leader **Tommie Williams** of the 19th moved that the Senate stand adjourned until 1:00 p.m., Monday, January 29.

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